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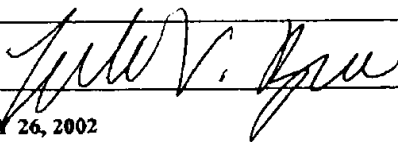
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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/711,655
	Filing Date	November 13, 2000
	First Named Inventor	Michael A. FREEMAN et al.
	Group Art Unit	1712
	Examiner Name	Philip Tucker
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	1894-00501

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§
SERIAL NO.: 09/711,655 §
FILED: November 13, 2000 §
FOR: Method and Composition For The §
Triggered Release Of Polymer- §
Degrading Agents For Oil Field Use §

GROUP ART UNIT: 1712
Examiner: P. Tucker

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to examination on the merits:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 18, 28, 29 and 38.

Please amend claims 1-17, 19-21, 30-36, 39-41, 43, 44, 46, 47 and 49, to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of degrading a predetermined substrate comprising:
providing a fluid or a solid containing a substrate-degrading agent inactivated by sequestration, said inactivated substrate-degrading agent being substantially unreactive under normal conditions of use of said fluid or solid or mixture thereof, and becoming active in responsive to a predetermined triggering signal that is not present under said normal conditions of use; and
applying said triggering signal, other than a change in temperature or mechanically crushing by closing fractures, to said fluid or solid such that said substrate-degrading agent becomes activated upon exposure to said triggering signal, the activated substrate-degrading agent being capable of degrading the substrate under degradation promoting conditions.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said sequestration comprises encapsulation of said substrate-degrading agent to provide an inactivated substrate-degrading agent.